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**FOR BRUCELLOSIS IN CANADA**

# CATTLE TESTING

## How Program Works

The program consists of five basic steps:

- Female cattle over 3½ years old (second calf heifers) that are marketed are identified with a special backtag at the ranch, farm, livestock markets or at other assembly points on the way to market.
- Blood samples are collected from tagged animals at packing plants or other designated points.
- Blood samples are then forwarded to a Federal laboratory where they are tested for brucellosis.
- Test results are forwarded to Federal disease control officials in the Province where the cattle originated.
- Negative tests are credited to herds and areas of origin. When blood tests indicate infection is present, Department of Agriculture veterinarians work directly with the owner until the disease is eradicated.

## Who May Participate?

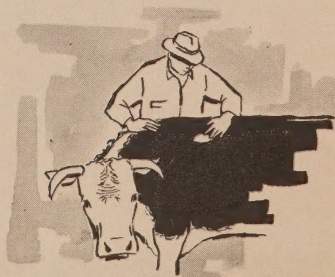
Any cattleman in a county or other certified area where the market cattle testing program is in operation. You can get information on the program from your nearest office of the Health of Animals Branch.

## What Cattle Are Tested Under This Plan?

Only female cattle 3½ years old (second calf heifers) or older are backtagged and tested. *Younger cattle are not tested because older animals in the herd are most likely to be infected.*

## County Can Be Recertified on Basis of Market Cattle Testing Results

An area can be recertified as brucellosis-free for a period of 3 years under this plan. But at least 5 per cent of all breeding cows in the county must be backtagged and tested each year for 3 years, or a total of 15 per cent over the 3-year period.





## Where Is the Blood Tested?

Actual testing will be done by qualified personnel at various laboratories of the Health of Animals Branch.

## How Reactors Are Traced

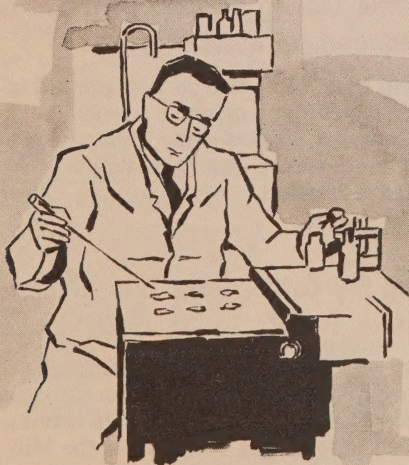
The code numbers on the tags you use will be recorded for your herd. Since these numbers are not issued to any other owner, animals bearing a particular number can easily be traced to the Province, county or area, and herd where they originated.

## What Happens if Reactors Are Found Among the Cows I Ship to Market?

Federal Health of Animals veterinarians will visit and discuss test results with you and the best ways to eliminate infection from your herd.

## If Reactors Are Found Will My Entire Herd Be Tested?

This depends on a number of factors—length of time that has elapsed from the time animals leave your place until they are tested, number of reactors found, whether or not brucellosis has previously been found in your herd, whether or not the reactors were official calfhood vaccinates, on the size of your herd, and whether or not recent additions have been made to the herd.





## MARKET CATTLE TEST

Ranchers and farmers participating in the Market Cattle Program will save time and money, help maintain their area's certified status with less work and cost, and contribute to the eradication of brucellosis.

Market cattle testing—which is simply a method of screening tagged market cattle for brucellosis by testing blood samples drawn at markets or packing plants—reduces the need for collecting blood samples at the farm or ranch.

This program which was originally designed to meet the needs of cattlemen in range and semi-range areas, is also proving to be a valuable brucellosis eradication method in non-range areas. Test results are credited back to

### **What Is the Purpose of the Backtags?**

These tags identify the Province, area or county and herd of origin of animals shipped to market.

### **Tagging Is Simple**

The tag is applied to either side, just back of the shoulder and about 4 inches below the back line.

The method of applying tags varies. In some areas the farmer or rancher applies the tags just before the animals are shipped to market. In other areas tags are not applied until the animals arrive at a livestock market or assembly point.

### **Where Tags Can Be Obtained**

Where tagging is done at the farm or ranch, you can obtain the tags and information about their application from your nearest Health of Animals office.

### **Report the Tags You Use**

Uniform reporting systems are provided. Details can be obtained from local Health of Animals representatives.



# ING SAVES TIME AND MONEY

herd and county of origin, and can be used for recertification of areas.

You stand to gain by taking part in this Program. By backtagging your market cattle, you can be sure that your herd is brucellosis-free. This method of screening your cattle also gives you continuing assurance that infection has not been introduced into your herd. And if infection is present, it can be located easily and be quickly eliminated before it has a chance to spread.

By participating in the Market Cattle Program you can help your county or area without additional on-the-farm or ranch tests except in known infected herds. This will save you time and money, help to maintain your area's certified status with less work and cost, and contribute to the eradication of brucellosis.

## **Tagged Animals May Be Shipped to Any Market You Choose**

All Federally inspected packing plants—and many under other forms of inspection—are co-operating in the market cattle testing program.

## **Will All Tagged Animals Shipped to Market Be Blood Tested?**

All tagged animals shipped to co-operating markets and packing plants will be tested and the results credited to your herd. However, reactors found more than 14 days after they leave your farm or ranch will not be charged to your herd.

## **Who Collects the Blood Samples?**

Blood samples will be collected by Federal meat inspection personnel when animals are sent to these packing plants. In other participating plants, trained personnel will obtain the samples.



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ROGER DUHAMEL, F.R.S.C.  
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